Regulating the Provident Fund Scheme

235. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to regulate the Provident Fund Scheme to suit the present conditions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and the schemes framed thereunder are administered by the Central Board of Trustees Employees' Provident Fund, a tripartite body consisting of representatives of employees, employers and the Government. Appropriate changes/ amendments are effected from time-to-time keeping in view the conditions prevailing at the time.

Drinking water under 'Swajaldhara' Scheme

†236. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any target for supplying clean drinking water in each village of India, under the 'Swajaldhara' Scheme;

(b) if so, by when this target will be achieved;

(c) whether there is a provision of ensuring public participation in the said scheme;

(d) whether it is a fact that the number of 232 drought prone villages, earmarked by Planning Commission in 1956, has increased to 1.5 lakh at present; and

(e) if-so, the action plan formulated by Government to implement the 'Swajaldhara' Scheme in one and half lakh drought prone villages, and the funds provided for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (e) Swajaldhara is a

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

community led participatory programme which aims to provide clean drinking water facilities in rural areas with minimum provision of drinking water (40 Ipcd). It was launched in 2002 and the element of public participation is an integral part of schemes taken up under Swajaldhara. Upto 20% of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) funds may be allocated for the Swajaldhara Scheme annually. Since rural drinking water is a State subject, the targets for coverage are fixed for the whole State and not scheme-wise. Swajaldhara Scheme is one of the schemes for rural water supply. Under Bharat Nirman, it is targeted to cover all rural habitations in the country with the minimum provision of drinking water by 2009.

The Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development has identified 972 blocks in 182 districts for its Drought Prone Area Programme. Under Swajaldhara funds are allocated to the States as per the inter-State ARWSP allocation ratio fixed for the year. The States then make district-wise allocations and consider specific proposals at District Water and Sanitation Committee (DWSC)/ State Water and Sanitation Mission (SWSM) level and approve them in conformity with Swajaldhara Guidelines. Government of India does not maintain scheme-wise allocations cleared by the respective DWSC/SWSM.

Loan by banks under Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana

†237. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of poor people who have submitted applications in various banks by 30th June, 2006 under Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana introduced by Government;

(b) the number of persons provided with loans by the banks; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure immediate loan to the poor, and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) As per the latest

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